



The Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met at the Williamson Pavilion at Hornet's Nest Park located at 6301 Beatties Ford Road, Charlotte, NC 28216 on June 13, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

PRC MINUTES June 13, 2017

ATTENDANCE

PRC Present:

Elaine Powell, Chair
Tristan McMannis, Executive Secretary
Sterling Martin
Aubin Guinness
Brian Cox
Ed Barnhart
Heidi Pruess
Doug Burnett
Rick Winiker
Peter Engels

PRC Absent:

Mary Johnson
Marc Seelinger
Kendel Bryant

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Elaine Powell, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Welcome and Introductions:

Chair Powell welcomed all to the June 13, 2017 Park and Recreation Commission meeting and each of the Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

Proclamations, Awards and Recognitions

Commissioner Ed Barnhart: Having completed 2 full terms on the Park and Recreation Commission, Commissioner Barnhart was presented with a service award by Chair Powell. In addition, a tree will be planted at a Park and Recreation location of his choice in honor of his service.

Commissioner Aubin Guinness: Having completed 3 years of service on the Park and Recreation Commission, Commissioner Guinness was presented with a service award by Chair Powell. In

addition, a tree will be planted at a Park and Recreation location of his choice in honor of his service.

Public Appearance:

Neil Broome and Cynthia Harrison were present to share information on the upcoming Camp Greene Centennial event on July 15 and 16. Below is a brief history of Camp Greene:

In the summer of 1917, the United States government needed places to train large numbers of troops quickly. It looked to the South because of its warm climate. On July 13, the officials announced Charlotte as their choice for [Camp Greene](#). Camp Greene was named in honor of Revolutionary War General [Nathanael Greene](#). It occupied over 6,000 acres and had 2,000 buildings, including a 60-acre hospital facility with 2,000 beds. It had more than a mile of horse stables, a [YMCA](#), a post office, and a bakery that produced 40,000 loaves of bread a day. The camp was a melting pot of nationalities, and some of the troops were recent immigrants who barely spoke English. About five hundred men took English lessons at the YMCA. Few people had expected any black troops to be sent to a southern camp, but at one time 14,000 black troops from Massachusetts and Connecticut were stationed there. In all, Camp Greene added 40,000 people to the Charlotte area. Camp Greene, Camp Bragg, and Camp Polk aided the war effort by training troops. The camp also greatly helped the economic development of North Carolina. Camp Greene brought thousands of men to this state, and many returned to marry and settle down when the war ended. Charlotte's growth as a major city started with the decision to build Camp Greene.

Land Preservation Update: Chris Matthews, Director of Nature Preserves and Natural Resources, made a presentation answering all the questions from the PRC regarding Park and Recreation land preservation and stewardship. This presentation can be viewed here: [Land Preservation and Stewardship](#). The central concern among the Commissioners was how to protect park land from development.

Advisory Council Appointments/Reappointments:

Aquatics: Commissioner Cox deferred on reappointments to the Aquatics Advisory Council. These reappointments will be placed on the August 8 Park and Recreation Commission agenda for reappointment consideration.

Athletics: **Motion was made** by Commissioner Martin to reappoint Athletics Advisory Council members as follows:

Alma Hernandez	2 nd Term	Expiring 6/2020
Larry Johnson	1 st Term	Expiring 6/2020
Christian Crute	3 rd Term	Expiring 6/2020
Larry McAfee	3 rd Term	Expiring 6/2020
Mariellen Auer	1 st Term	Expiring 6/2020
Steve Miller	2 nd Term	Expiring 6/2020
Stewart Mallard	3 rd Term	Expiring 6/2020
Frank Jonas	3 rd Term	Expiring 6/2020

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pruess and approved unanimously.

Central: **Motion was made** by Commissioner Engels to reappoint **Walter Turnbull** to a 2nd term on the Central Advisory Council, expiring 6/2020, which was seconded by Commissioner Martin and approved unanimously.

Golf: Motion was made by Commissioner Cox to reappoint Golf Advisory Council members as follows:

Deloris Taylor	1 st Term	Expiring 6/2020
Carol Clarke	3 rd Term	Expiring 6/2020
Hong Liang	3 rd Term	Expiring 6/2020
Dennis Dixon	4 th Term	Expiring 6/2020
Richard Van Dyke	4 th Term	Expiring 6/2020
Samuel Lomax	3 rd Term	Expiring 6/2020
Raymond Cantley, Jr.	4 th Term	Expiring 6/2020
Everett Taylor, Jr.	3 rd Term	Expiring 6/2020
Marvin Ponds	4 th Term	Expiring 6/2020
John Love, Sr.	4 th Term	Expiring 6/2020

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pruess and approved unanimously.

Greenway: Motion was made by Commissioner Burnette to appoint **Paul Strickland** to an unexpired term, expiring 6/2019 and to appoint **Jennifer Cline** to an unexpired term, expiring 6/2018, which was seconded by Commissioner Winiker and approved unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burnette to appoint **Brian Malec** to a 3rd term on the Greenway Advisory Council, expiring 6/2020, which was seconded by Commissioner Barnhart and approved unanimously.

North: Motion was made by Commissioner Pruess to appoint **Patricia Poteat** to an unexpired term on the North Advisory Council, expiring 6/2018, which was seconded by Commissioner Powell and approved unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Pruess to appoint **Shawn Meachem** to a 2nd term on the North Advisory Council, expiring 6/2020, which was seconded by Commissioner Powell and approved unanimously.

South: Motion was made by Commissioner Barnhart to reappoint South Advisory Council members as follows and to defer on the decision to reappoint Classie Worthy until the August 8 Park and Recreation Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burnett and approved unanimously. The expired terms of Aaron McKeithan and Shawn Meachem became vacancies.

Paula Fricke	3 rd Term	Expiring 6/2020
Lindsay Jones	1 st Term	Expiring 6/2020
Michael Mulder	3 rd Term	Expiring 6/2020

Stewardship: Motion was made by Commissioner Pruess to reappoint **Nancy Conrad** to a 1st term on the Stewardship Advisory Council, expiring 6/2020, which was seconded by Commissioner Powell and approved unanimously. The expired term of Diane Willis became a vacancy.

Director's Report:

Aquatics Update: Genni Reel, Aquatics Manager, made a presentation updating the PRC on Aquatics in Mecklenburg County. The presentation covered updates on the indoor pools, outdoor pools, the recruiting, training and auditing of lifeguard staff and free swim lessons. This

presentation can be viewed here: [Let's Talk Water](#). A note of interest is the switch from using the Red Cross lifeguard certification to using Starfish Aquatics. The biggest difference are the Starfish lifeguard audits which instills accountability and raises the bar of expectations.

Budget Update: Director Garges shared the results of the recent BOCC Straw Vote session. The operating budget was approved and discussion was held on the Capital Improvement Projects. Discussion was also held regarding the Memorial Stadium project and the remaining park projects from the 2008 bond referendum. It was decided to remove the Memorial Stadium project from the CIP until the City of Charlotte decides to support or not support the project. Jim felt the PRC presentation at the Public Hearing, advocacy and e-mails from the PRC and Advisory Council members and other organizations such as Greenways for Mecklenburg and Sustain Charlotte was heard by the BOCC and led to this discussion. In August, there will be more discussion by the BOCC on Memorial Stadium and the bond projects. Jim encouraged the PRC to continue their advocacy efforts in support of completing the bond projects and finish out the greenway system.

PRC Chair Report:

PRC Nominating Committee: Commissioner Barnhart brought before the Park and Recreation Commission a new slate of officers for appointment consideration for July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018. **Motion was made** by Commissioner Barnhart to appoint **Elaine Powell as Chair, Heidi Pruess as Vice-Chair and Tristan McMannis as Executive Secretary**, which was seconded by Commissioner Burnett and approved unanimously.

Consent Items

Motion was made by Commissioner Cox to approve all consent items, including the Park and Recreation Commission minutes of May 9, 2017, which was seconded by Commissioner McMannis, and approved unanimously.

PRC Reports and Requests

Commissioner Pruess: Expressed appreciation for the nomination and appointment to PRC Vice Chair.

Commissioner McMannis: Expressed appreciation for the nomination and appointment to PRC Executive Secretary. Pineville Summer Rockin and Reelin Concert and Movie Series has begun.

Commissioner Powell: Shared that Commissioner Bryant would be getting married in July.

Commissioner Barnhart: Expressed that serving on the PRC has been an honor and privilege and he looks forward to continuing to work with the PRC in his role with the Greenways for Mecklenburg foundation.

Commissioner Engels: Announced there would be a Briar Creek clean-up around Methodist Home and through Shamrock Park on Saturday, June 17, 2017.

Commissioner Guinness: Expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the Park and Recreation Commission. Shared that Cornelius celebrated the opening of the Caldwell Station Creek Greenway on Saturday, May 13, 2017 and invited all to take the opportunity to visit this

greenway. Commissioner Guinness also shared that portions of the Rocky River is designated as a blueway and is part of the Carolina Thread Trail.

Motion was made by Commissioner Winiker to set the PRC's top priorities as:

- Additional funding to complete the twelve 2008 bond projects that were not included in the proposed CIP
- Dedicated funding of 6.6 M/year for land acquisition solely for Park and Recreation infrastructure

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Engels and approved unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.